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SPECIALIST SHARES DUTY IN V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION WITH TWO SPECIAL SOLDIERS – HIS MOM AND DAD

By 1st Lt. Tomas Campbell

701st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq — Pfc. Christopher

Jackson became Spc. Christopher Jackson here in a ceremony at the gymnasium here recently.

A run-of-the-mill ceremony? Not entirely. You see, the specialist, from V Corps' Bravo Company, 701st Main Support Battalion, had his father there to help promote him.

Both father -- Master Sgt. Richard Jackson -- and son are part of 1st Infantry Division Support Command. Spc. Jackson is a fuel specialist with the 701st, while Master Sgt. Jackson supports the DISCOM's mayor's cell. Spc. Jackson's mom -- also Master Sgt. Jackson -- is with the 417th Base Support Battalion in Kitzingen, Germany.

"I am proud of him especially in this environment," says his father, who was also assigned to the 701st until last year. "He's become a responsible young man."

Father Jackson says there was no pressure for his son to follow in his parents' career path. "I left that entirely up to him," Master Sgt. Jackson says. "He called me up one day and started asking me questions."

Spc. Jackson is glad he is following in his family's footsteps. He does not know if he's going to make a career of the Army as his parents have, but he does know that his 18 months of military service have been rewarding.

"The Army has a lot to offer me" says Spc. Jackson. "I already have many experiences of being deployed that I will never forget." Both Jacksons say they are fortunate to be deployed so close to each other, and that seeing each other in the dining facility or sharing a quick chat has made the time go by easier for the both of them.

